

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are currently pending in the subject patent application. Claims 1-3 and 6-9 was rejected by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 16, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshikawa, U.S. Patent No.: 6,624,902. Claims 2, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Oshima, US Patent No. 5,932,139.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 1 was objected to due to informalities and under 37 CFR 1.75 (a) as failing to particularly points out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicants have corrected the informalities to claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants further eliminated the language "one or more markings" thought to be unclear, and now refer specifically to "first and second" markings.

III. 35 USC §112 REJECTIONS

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicants have added "first and second sets of" to claim 3 to clarify which set of markings are being referred to. It is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshikawa (U.S. Patent No.: 6,624,902). In the June 16, 2005 Office Action the Examiner identified that certain features argued by the Applicants would distinguish the invention over the asserted art. However, the Examiner also identified that the claims did not adequately recite those argued features.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly show the distinguishing features. The present claims now recite that first marking are associated with a first orientation of the mailpiece, and second marking are associated with a second orientation of the mailpiece.

Then, based on the orientation of the mailpiece different markings will be printed. Thus, even if a mailpiece is only placed through the system once, the choice of marking will be selected based on the orientation.

These features distinguish the invention over the asserted Yoshikawa reference. Yoshikawa describes adjusting a printing operation based on the orientation of a sheet. However, the image to be printed on the sheet is always the same, and is not dependent on the orientation. In the amended claims of this application, the choice of markings will depend on the orientation.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection may be withdrawn from claims 1 and 6 and their corresponding dependent claims, 3 and 9.

V. CLAIM REJECTIONS § 103

Claim 2, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Oshima (US Patent No. 5,932,139).

As discussed above, the claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish the Yoshikawa reference. Oshima has been asserted in connection with features that do not cure the deficiencies identified in Yoshikawa. Accordingly, it is submitted that these rejections of claims, 2, 7, and 8 may be withdrawn.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3 and 6-9 are in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully resubmitted,



Michael J. Cummings

Reg. No. 46,650

Attorney for Applicants

Telephone (203) 924-3934